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conclusions are those of the authorities so copiously quoted: Hallam, Green, Palfrey, Campbell, Neal, and others. When the author himself ventures among original material he evinces that lack of discrimination that characterizes the new comer; for instance, we have placed before us in one breath as authorities, copious extracts from Colonel Hutchinson's letters to his wife, and from Longfellow's "Miles Standish."

Such a book may be interesting, it may even justify publication for certain readers, but it is not a distinct contribution to historical writing. The non-committal words of the introducer, Dr. McKenzie, best characterize the work: "The design of this book is a large one."

W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS.

University of Pennsylvania.

The Physiocrats: Six Lectures on the French Économistes of the Eighteenth Century. By HENRY HIGGS. Pp. x, 151. Price, \$1.10. London and New York: The Macmillan Co., 1897.

As the first work in English dealing in a comprehensive way with the Physiocrats, Mr. Higgs' "Lectures," will be welcomed by a wide circle of readers. While they do not add very much to what was already known in regard to the leading doctrines of this school, they do contain a very full and interesting account of the Physiocrats themselves and of the literary history of their ideas.

At the outset the author explains that "critical and doctrinal comment" have been restricted within the narrowest limits, with a view to making the lectures interesting to the somewhat miscellaneous audience for which they were originally prepared. In this endeavor he has been entirely successful. Anecdote and biographical detail help to give a vividness to his characterizations of Mirabeau, Turgot and the other writers of which he treats, while his analysis of the theories of the school is simple and direct. Even Quesnay acquires flesh and blood under his treatment and his "*Tableau économique*" is explained so that the dullest intelligence may understand it.

Starting out with a brief description of the economic condition of France during the first half of the eighteenth century, Mr. Higgs makes Cantillon's "*Essai*," published in 1755, the first literary landmark in the history of Physiocratic ideas. He shows how much Mirabeau's "*L'ami des hommes*" owed to this work and describes the celebrated meeting between that author and Quesnay in July, 1757, which gave the latter his first and most devoted disciple. The

second of the six lectures is devoted to an account of the life and writings of Quesnay and here the leading features of the "agricultural system" are explained. In the third, fourth and fifth lectures an excellent sketch of the growth of the school, of the characters and writings of its principal members and of its opponents is given and abundant references are supplied to enable the student to follow out any special phase of the thought and activity of this interesting group of writers. Turgot's saying, "*Je ne suis point encyclopédiste car je crois en Dieu. Je ne suis point économiste car je ne voudrais pas de roi,*" is quoted and serves to explain more clearly his relation to his contemporaries than pages of description could do. In conclusion Mr. Higgs traces out the "influence of the school" as reflected in the writings of English economists from Adam Smith to Henry George, and in such French writers as J. B. Say and Bastiat and calls attention to the progress made towards the system of liberty and the concentration of the burden of taxation upon land.

The great merits of these lectures lies in the very complete view of the literary history of the Physiocrats which they contain. There is hardly an important writing that is not analyzed or an important writer about whose life and character something interesting is not said. When it comes to the philosophical explanation of the Physiocratic system however, and the appreciation of their services to economic science, the book under review leaves much to be desired. The very profusion of biographical and bibliographical information which is supplied tends to obscure the historical problem which a writer on the Physiocrats should hold steadily in view. Just why did this system of economics attain to the remarkable vogue which it enjoyed from 1760 to 1780? What was peculiar in the situation of France which led her thinkers to give so much attention to social philosophy and to ascribe so much importance to agriculture in the industrial economy they contemplated?

The answers to these questions are contained implicitly in the material which Mr. Higgs has brought together, but he nowhere brings out clearly either the questions or the replies which he himself would make to them. The history of a school of thought is more than an account of individual peculiarities and of individual opinions. In the history of political economy no school has yet arisen which has had so much the character of a religious "sect" as did the Physiocrats. For this there must be some explanation and the critic who will adequately explain this phenomenon and distinguish the permanent element of truth in those systems of political economy which separate out the industry devoted to procuring

subsistence from the mass of human activities will find his audience ready for him. Mr. Higgs does not do this, but the more modest task, which he does undertake, is performed with a care and judgment which make his 'Lectures' a valuable contribution to the history of economic theories.

H. R. S.

A Critical Study of Nullification in South Carolina. By DAVID F. HOUSTON, A. M. Pp. 175. Price, \$1.25. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1896.

This monograph supplies a readable presentation of certain sides of the nullification controversy. The work is not intended as a general history of the subject but rather as a sketch of the internal development of the doctrine in a single state of the Union. The author traces the various stages of the movement from the earliest symptoms of discontent in 1816-1820 down to the frank enunciation of the doctrine in 1833. The chief merit of the monograph lies, not so much in the discovery of new facts—to which indeed the author makes no claim—but rather in showing the intimate connection which existed between the doctrine of nullification and its underlying causes. The institution of slavery rendered impossible the introduction of manufactures into the South and made it dependent for its prosperity on the sale of cotton, a commodity whose price had begun to fall. The older states of the South, therefore, declined in prosperity in competition with the newer and more fertile regions opened to cultivation. The acute feeling of discontent arising from these conditions vented itself in attacks on the tariff which was regarded as the cause of all the evil. Some justification for this complaint was given by the grasping and selfish policy pursued by the Eastern and Middle States, and added causes of irritation were found in the supposed tendency of the federal government to increase its powers in other directions as well as in the open attacks on slavery made in the halls of Congress by Northern representatives.

As to the significance of the nullification movement the author points out that, although the nullifiers originally contemplated secession only as a remote possibility, the continued action of the real causes which produced the doctrine of nullification lead inevitably to the movement to dissolve the Union. "By 1832 the feelings of a majority of South Carolinians were alienated from the Union . . . many of her wisest and most far-sighted citizens felt that the final struggle was only a matter of time."

JAMES T. YOUNG.